

**PVTA
Pioneer
Valley
Transit
Authority**

**Administrative Headquarters
Old North Main St. Firehouse
2808 Main Street
Springfield, MA 01107
(413) 732-6248**

**MINUTES OF PVTA'S
REMOTE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING
August 19, 2024**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Finance & Audit Sub-Committee meeting of the Pioneer Valley Transit Authority was held on Monday, August 19, 2024 at 1:30 P.M. remotely in accordance with Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, supplemental state budget provisions for Fiscal Year 2023, authorizing public bodies to continue to hold entirely remote meetings, or so-called "hybrid" meetings, upon the provision of "adequate, alternative means" of public access, until March 31, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Members: Doug Slaughter, Amherst; Steve Huntley, Chicopee; Stephen Fay, Holyoke; David Moskin, Hadley

NOT PRESENT:

N/A

Call to Order: Steve Huntley, Chairman of the Finance & Audit Committee stated that the committee has a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:32 P.M.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Steve Huntley opened the floor for public comments. No Public Comments were made.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF THE FINANCE & AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 17, 2024.

Chairman Huntley asked for a motion from the Finance & Audit Committee to approve the meeting minutes of May 17, 2024.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Slaughter/Fay) to approve the minutes of PVTA's Finance & Audit Committee meeting held May 17, 2024.

Chairman Huntley asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

Doug Slaughter: Yes

Stephen Fay: Yes

David Moskin: Yes

Steve Huntley: Yes

Motion passed, 4-0 vote.

4. PVTA FY24 AUDIT REPORT

Sandra Sheehan stated that David Irwin, the Audit Director with Adelson & Company, has asked if the Advisory Board may grant the Finance and Audit Committee the authority to approve/accept the year end audit at a meeting to be held early October between the Auditors and the Finance and Audit Committee in order to meet the deadline to the state on October 4th as the Audit will not be completed for PVTA's Regular Scheduled Advisory Board Meeting on September 18th.

5. FY25 BUDGET ACT, SECTION 1596-2406 GRANT PROGRAM

Sandra Sheehan reported the following:

The FY25 signed State Budget saw an increase in the allocation for the RTAs. The budget of \$160M includes \$94M from the State Transportation Fund and an additional \$66M from the Fair Share Amendment to support operational enhancements and improvements, including expanded service hours, weekend services and route expansions. These funds are to be allocated in an equitable distribution that takes into account the net cost of service and the 60/30/10 formula. This funding is \$10M more than what the RTAs received last year.

In addition, there is \$30M for the implementation of year-round system wide fare free service and \$10M for grants that increase ridership, increase total mileage covered in a single trip and reach low-income individuals.

The Board needs to approve PVTA applying for these funds. Funding would cover fares for both fixed route and paratransit service for approximately nine months, or through the end of the fiscal year.

Stephen Fay: Thinks fare free is a good idea and is in favor of applying for the funding.

Steve Huntley: Agrees with Stephen. Thinks this would be great for our passengers.

Doug Slaughter: Likes the idea. We need to be cognizant of problem type riders that cause difficulty for our drivers. Some things to think about as we submit our application.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Moskin/Slaughter) to recommend to the Board approving PVTA applying for the FY25 Budget Act, Section 1596-2406 Grant Program, that would allow PVTA to go fare free for approximately 9 months, or as long as grant funding allows.

Chairman Huntley asked if there was any discussion, hearing none, asked for a roll call vote.

Doug Slaughter: Yes

Stephen Fay: Yes

David Moskin: Yes

Steve Huntley: Yes

Motion passed, 4-0 vote.

6. EXECUTIVE SESSION: MA G.L. 161B, SECTION 21A, QUALIFICATION #3, COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Motion: Moved and seconded (Moskin/Fay): To enter into Executive Session under MA G.L. 161b, section 21a, qualification #3, collective bargaining regarding the Local ATU 448 Union Contract negotiations as having the discussion in open session may be detrimental to the public body's bargaining. The Committee will return to Open Session.

Chairman Huntley asked if the Committee had any discussion. Hearing none; asked for a roll call vote.

Doug Slaughter: Yes
Stephen Fay: Yes
David Moskin: Yes
Steve Huntley: Yes

Motion passed, 4-0 vote.

The Finance & Audit Committee entered into Executive Session at 2:00pm.

The Finance & Audit Committee returned to Open Session at 2:58pm.

(David Moskin, Hadley left meeting at 2:33pm, quorum still present)

7. ADJOURNMENT

Steve Huntley asked for a motion from the Finance & Audit Committee to adjourn.

MOTION: Moved and seconded (Fay/Slaughter) to adjourn.

Roll call vote:
Doug Slaughter: Yes
Stephen Fay: Yes
Steve Huntley: Yes

Motion passed, 3-0 vote.

The meeting of the PVTA Finance & Audit Committee adjourned at 2:59 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

ATTEST: _____
BRANDY PELLETIER

Documents filed with Finance & Audit Committee Meeting packet:

- May 17, 2024 Finance & Audit Committee Minutes

Minutes Approved: October 3, 2024